

TO: DAVE - ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ *PLEASE RUSH*

AM UNABLE TO ATTEND L.A. MEETING TOMORROW. WOULD YOU PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO THE COMMISSION PANEL MEMBERS FOR ME ASAP? THANK YOU. KENT MOORE, FORMER ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JUROR.

9-8-04 SUBJ: COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION

Dear CPR Commission Members:

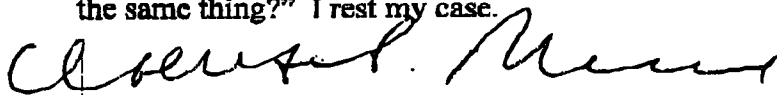
So far, your Commission is right on target with its recommendations calling for major reform in California's county departments of education.

Grand juries, along with state legislative bodies, have, for years, conducted numerous studies of county departments of education and have employed both educational consultants and cost auditors to assist them in their research. Final reports have, again and again, pointed to county office waste, mismanagement and duplication. As far back as 1969 and 1970 there were serious concerns voiced regarding this duplication and overlap. The Little Hoover Commission even called for a complete reorganization of county departments of education years ago.

In a survey sent out to teachers in Orange County, for instance, over 80% of them stated that they didn't ask for or use department services because they were already offered in their own districts. And, incredibly, the Orange County Department of Education and others, I'm sure, have actually been charging strapped school districts within their counties for their supposed expertise and so-called essential services.

Instead of downsizing when county populations grew and school districts unified and became more self-sufficient, these huge and mostly unnecessary bureaucracies continued to grow, unchecked. Take the Orange County Department of Education. Its budget has tripled over the past 20 years to a whopping \$240 million even though it is surrounded by 28 school districts. I challenge members of your panel to ask a teacher just what their county department have done for them lately and see how they reply.

In an August front page story appearing in the Los Angeles Times a spokesperson for the Reason Foundation, an LA think-tank you are presently working with, stated it best - - "Why would you have two separate systems with two separate staffs, doing essentially the same thing?" I rest my case.



Kent S. Moore
Corona del Mar, CA
Former Chair, Grand Jurors' Assn. of Orange County Education Committee
~~(S) (S) (S) (S) (S)~~